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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for iteation wish to have rejected articles returned w must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Lament of John Bigelow. Noting that his fellow men are preparing to ecstasiate upon the Hudson and to celebrate their own glories reflected in its broad bosom, JOHN BIGE-Low reminds them to look beneath its surface and consider a moment the reproach that it bears. He recalls what it was and he describes what it is; and a sorrier or a more humiliating contrast there could not well be drawn, if only men had the conscience or the sensibility to apprehend it. Appalled and repelled by the prospect the shades of HUDSON and of FULTON mournfully claculate: "What have we in common with a city in which politics and prostitution are convertible terms?" One of these days there may be a knell in those very words for the Evil Genius of

A Difference.

Tammany.

The experience of the Hon. RICHARD ACRILLES BALLINGER at the hands of the President of the United States in the matter of PINCHOT, GLAVIS et al. vs. the Secretary of the Interior is like grave of ETHAN ALLEN HITCHCOCK.

to share his humiliation with the public: rious.

him restitution or reparation.

ALLEN HITCHCOCK!

situation much as it was. We find the their tears to Gretna and Algiers. substance of the report published in a Happily this stormy rumpus has been recent number of the London Lancet, quieted. There is no longer a question spirits could be improved.

essentially on the ethylic alcohol con- might think the day well spent. tained. Consequently they refuse to recommend that the use of the word

toes, beets and molasses.

tion given by the British Pharmaconcels, Itaction their conclusion being that the term brandy "is applicable to a rotable spirit MacGragos as a target, manufactured from fermented grape juice and from no other materials. to the name; this obviously is a concession to trading interests, which throughout the report are considered carefully. A further conclusion reached is that the 2 00 application of the term "brandy" in day. The league has selected delegates who are DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year 8 00 Great Britain cannot be controlled by the nature of the apparatus or process used in the distillation of the spirit. As ucts of the pot still and of the patent still are put upon a common level; indeed, the commissioners explicitly repel the suggestion that pot still spirit is

spirit.

The Lancet expresses a doubt as to whether the alcohol, and the alcohol alone, accounts for all the results of prescribing a particular potable spirit. The prediction is ventured also that the popular notion that potable spirits are more wholesome for being ripened by age will die hard, in spite of the commissioners' averment that they have been unable to obtain actual proof that such is the case. The Lancet is convinced that practical experience, which decides at one time in favor of the use of brandy and at another in favor of whiskey, is based on something more tangible than flavor. Those who use spirituous drinks testify that whiskey, brandy and rum have different physiological effects. The inference drawn by the Lancet is that there is much here as yet beyond the ken of chemistry or physiology, and it is pronounced rash to assume that all the effects of a potable spirit are due simply to alcohol.

The royal commission is far from asserting that its conclusions should be accepted as final. On the contrary, a statutory provision is suggested by which a magistrate can receive the assistance of two assessors, that is, two persons of practical or scientific knowledge of the matters involved, to sit with him est of the people will be stimulated by a mere and advise him in cases where the naunder examination.

Mr. Taft and the River Trip.

We are glad to see that the tempestuous teapot in which Mr. TAFT's down a sprig of tardy myrtle laid upon the the river trip at New Orleans was originally set aboil has been removed and There never was a more honest man a more sedate receptacle installed. in the service of the people than Vast garrulities arose out of that con-HITCHCOCK. He was the very soul of tention. Mr. TAFT and his party had honesty. When he lived in China and to be taken down the river to see the the drama of Oriental life and manners majestic stream and weigh its commerwas unfolded before him he learned cial possibilities. Doubtless they would what Orientalism in politics and in pub- have gone to the old jetties at South lic life implied. He knew the meaning Pass and the new jetties at Southwest of the silken bowstring, the folded gold- Pass. Conceivably some real hot one leaf and the other amenities of states- of the Progressive Union had arranged mancraft, but we doubt if all their mystic to take them outside and view the letcomplexities were as anything when ties from sea, though what good that compared to his own experiences during would have done except to show the the latter years of his long and honor- ravages science had made in the ranks able service at Washington as Secretary of the Louisiana mosquito we cannot say. All was in a turmoil, looking for What would have happened to RICH- the proper craft to convey the dis-ARD BALLINGER had he held the same tinguished party and the various comoffice two years ago and had the like mittees, and then we heard a cry that circumstances beset him then as now? it might be necessary to bundle them Would be have bowed L a head in shame, all aboard some foreign tramp ateamer. and mortification, too proud as an there being no American craft available American and too scasitive as a patriot for purposes so exacting and so luxu-

but preferring to bear it alone and Upon this distressing uproar Assistcarry it to his death? That was what ant Secretary McHarg of the Comnot what falls to RICHARD BALLINGER. | patriotic indignation, and, indeed, conobligation upon RICHARD BALLINGER river steamboats, any one of them quite to prostitute his office or himself to capable of carrying Mr. TAFF, are alserve the political and the private emer- ways within reach at New Orleans, his gencies of his self-appointed master. scorn is not wholly unintelligible. Of No one is calling upon him to dishonor course it wouldn't be altogether safe or himself and to pollute his trust by letting at all comfortable—for the passengers the guilty escape punishment and the to take a rickety, topheavy stern wheeler favored secure their plunder. No one outside the passes, even for the admiwill stab him in the back as he performs rable purpose of viewing the marshes his duty; no one rob him of his self- and mud lumps from an uneasy point of respect or of his good name and deny view; but Mr. TAPT had already witnessed that dreary prospect, and a repe-Thrice happy and fortunate RICHARD tition was not at all necessary. In any BALLINGER; and ever honored and re- event it would not have been instrucvered the memory of honest ETHAN tive, though of course the local committees would wish to prolong the ceremonies. McHARG, however, was firm, "Whiskey" and "Brandy" in Great and naturally he prevailed. No foreign steamer with its hateful flag for him. After a long investigation of the sub- The Progressive Union would have to ject the royal commission on whiskey take Mr. TAFT and his retinue, actual and other potable spirits has pub- and volunteer, down the river in strictly lished in a blue book a report which. American bottoms or they could stand although covering thoroughly the points with willows in their hands upon the that the inquiry brought up, leaves the wild sea bank at New Orleans and waft

which expresses some disappointment of putting our President on board of a at the omission of suggestions regard- foreign ship, even for sightseeing puring fresh legislation or the institution poses or for relaxing luncheons at the of a new system of control by which Wilkinson or the Warmouth plantations. the quality of the supply of potable The Government has stepped in to the rescue and the lighthouse tenders the According to the royal commission it Oleander and the Hibiscus, and heaven is not desirable in the interest either of knows how many other botanical galthe liquor traffic or of the public to en- leys, have been called upon, and of force certain standards or to insist upon course they will rally affectionately to exact definitions or upon the exclusive the Macedonian cry. All is well again. use of particular materials in the manu- The rumpled surface has been ironed facture of potable spirits. All the pro- out and no doubt starched accordingly. posals to those ends which have excited The Presidential party with its accomso much discussion in Great Britain are panying committees of leading citizens therefore dismissed. The commission- will sail on time. Eloquence will be ers decline, for instance, to attach any industriously uncorked. Good fellowimportance to the question whether a ship and perspiration will flow ungiven whiskey is pot distilled or patent checked—and if upon his return to the distilled; the value of whiskey in the city Mr. TAFT could only get a quiet treatment of disease depends, they hold, dinner at Antoine's or Galatoire's he

Trying It on the People. "whiskey" should be restricted to spirit Two distinct, significant and admimanufactured by the pot still process. rably complete checks to the direct prinominate as his executor or trustee. It Their conclusion is that whiskey may mary movement were administered at he defined as a "spirit obtained by dis- the recent primary election in the uptillation from a mash of cereal grains State cities. In Buffalo the champions this respect; and intelligent testators saccharified by the diastase of malt." of the Governor's plan were actually will give preference to those which Scotch whiskey is defined simply as made ridiculous, so overwhelming was habitually employ lawyers of recognized whiskey distilled in Scotland, and Irish their defeat. To emphasise their whiskey as whiskey distilled in Ireland. strength, the Eric County Direct Nom- the law relating to the administration Broad as this definition is, the Lancet inations League concentrated its ef- of decedents' estates. points out that it excludes - and prop- forts upon Assemblyman CLARENCE erly the use of such materials as pota- MACGREGOR, who had originally favored direct nominations and then In repard to brandy the royal com- changed his mind and voted against the

tions for its own purposes,

The significance of the fight was thoroughly understood and made per-The compounded spirit, however, known feetly plain to the voters. The followas "British brandy" should in the judg- ing quotation from the Buffalo Commerment of the commission be still entitled cial, a leading advocate of the Hughes plan, shows how thoroughly the Hughes adherents accepted the contest:

" The Issue thus made up will be fought out in the primary elections in the Eighth district tosound Republicans and who can be relied upon to nominate a candidate pledged to support Governor HUGHES'S programme. It is a fair open with whiskey, so with brandy, the prodprimaries this fall "

The result of this "fair open fight over an important principle" was instrucsuperior for any purpose to patent still tive. Assemblyman MacGregor received so tremendous an indorsement that he will have over 90 per cent. of the delegates in the Assembly district convention. Even the Commercial is forced to the humiliating confession:

"The Direct Nominations League failed to divert any considerable vote from the regular party support given Assemblyman MacGREGOR.

Not less interesting was a similar incident in Rochester. In one of the wards the Republican machine "designated" a candidate for Alderman. This was a ward in which the Rochester champions of the Hughes plan were most energetic in their championship of direct nominations, and two independent nominees were promptly put into the fight. The result deserves mention in all future discussions of the direct primary. Of 2,268 enrolled Republicans in this ward only 907 took the trouble to go to the polls. Of these 527 voted for the "designated" choice of the machine, 327 for one independent nominee, and 5 for the other.

The comments of the Post Express upon this local primary are not without value. After reviewing the facts in its editorial columns it concludes:

" This proves what the Post Express has been saying right along - that the trouble is not so much with the present laws as with the people themselves; the machinery is at hand, but the people change in the name of a primary, or, indeed, by ture of a potable spirit is the subject any act of the Legislature? Why are men insistent upon a plan of direct primaries for the whole State when they will not participate in a lirect primary in their own ward?"

> Can it be that the people, the always trustworthy, alert and intelligent people of these two great cities, are out of sympathy with the "American Idea"? Is the "spirit of 1776" dead in the counties of Erie and Monroe? At least the Direct Nominations League owes the public another pamphlet devoted to a veracious explanation of the real meaning of these apparently decisive results.

Trust Companies as Executors.

The advantages of trust companies executors formed the subject of interesting address delivered last week before the bankers' convention at Chicago by Mr. SAMUEL S. REMSEN of the New York bar.

The speaker advocated the union of counsel in the executorship as likely to constitute the most satisfactory agency for the administration of a substantial estate.

One advantage in making a rich trust company your executor is obvious: Even if your estate is mismanaged the is particularly important in caswhere women without any knowledge between the two sexes. or experience in business are the bene-It is true that the representatives of the to have slightly exceeded the male. trust company who actually manage the affairs of the estate may so manage them as to incur inexcusable losses; but in fact, very much greater. To rest with if this happens the losses fall upon the 24.312 would be to assume that no females trust company and not upon the beneficiaries.

testators, and the appointment of trust cemmon than it used to be.

On the other hand it must be rememact through persons as its agents, so than 40,000 native born Nicaraguan males that the real executor in the case of a living abroad. That is one in every eight trust company is the lawyer or firm of or ten of the whole population, or one in lawyers who act as its counsel. If the legal advisers of a trust company are estamentary trustee will be well done; otherwise it will not. In all matters ex- and age under the auspices of Government of the moneys of the estate everything depends upon the capacity of counsel; but of course this is equally true where the trustee is an individual.

Another advantage of a trust company as executor or testamentary trustee is that the appointee is not liable to die. All the care and prevision exercised by a testator in the selection of a person to administer his estate may be nullified by the untimely death of the person thus selected; and perhaps the nese temple. successor appointed by the court, often as the result of expensive judicial proceedings, will be some one of whom the testator never even heard. Such contingencies are absolutely avoided where he administration of the estate is vested in a trust company.

The extent, however, to which the efficiency of a trust company in this branch of its work is dependent upon the ability of its regular counsel should not be disregarded by a testator in deis not difficult to ascertain the antecedents of different trust companies in standing, capacity and experience in

There is nothing invidious in the emi-nently proper reflection that should Mr. WILLIAM M. IVINS become Mayor of this ers virtually adopted the defini- Hinman-Green bill. The Erie county make a very good Mayor indeed.

MISRULED NICARAGUA.

Why Americans Should Think Twice Be fore Emigrating to That Country.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: President Zelaya has established an immigra tion agency here to promote colonization by Americans of the Mosquito Reserve. This country, which was visited by Columbus more than 400 years ago, has in the Hodgson, whom Governor lawney sent out there about the middle of the eighteenth century, wrote home in 1757 that the population was made up as fol-170; Indian and negro slaves, 800. Total nes or Mosquito people, as he called them never exceeded ten or eleven thousand From the best computation they are no bove 7,000 souls.

That is to say, the whole population of he coast at that time was about 9,000 or 10,000. To-day it is estimated by the Blue felds American not to exceed 15,000, including the population of the shore of which dians along the foothills and the mining population at the head of the Wanks River he population has therefore not increase in 152 years, and economic science on that account not hesitate to assert that 15,000 is the extreme limit of population rhich under existing conditions the country will support

aya has been in power for fifteen year and the result of his rule is thus summar ized by the Literal Atlantice, a semi-official paper of Bluefields, in a recent issue: The revenues from imports have gone on fall ng giddly till at this moment they are reduced

The American, commenting on this, arrives at the conclusion that the import revsques of Bluefields, the principal port, are more than one-third what they were it the '90s, and continues:

It takes money to buy goods, and in this coun try there are only three sources of money. there are savings; these have been exha secondly, there is foreign capital; this has bee practically stopped. Thirdly, there are the prod-ucts of labor—gold, rubber and bananas, sold abroad and drawn against to pay for goods; this is practically the only fund we have left. Last week we estimated this fund—that is, the total this year-at \$600,000 United currency. Let us now estimate the taxes which ople will pay during this year: Import revenues, Import revenues, Cape

Wharf tax. Export taxes on gold, rubber, cocoanuts,

\$481,000 will remain \$100,000 to \$150,000 at nd what little foreign capital may come in to buy imported goods and with which to maintain repair and extend plantations and mines

Taking the population of this coast, exclusiv of Greytown, as 15,000, which we are sure is an outside figure, and taking the taxation, exclusive inside figure, we find that, distributing the taxation equally, every man, woman and child on the decrease in population, the taxation must have reached in 1905-06 at least \$50 gold a head. Such taxation exhausted savings, frightened away for-eign capital, and left the coast nothing to repair the destruction wrought by two hurricanes

The school teachers have not been paid ment employees, excepting the soldiers sters but one have been dismissed, several ourts are to be abolished and the number of c'erks is to be reduced. At the same time a score of monopolies in which the President is the chief beneficiary are left undisturbed. That there are emigrades is not to be wondered at. The question is often asked: How many

Sicaraguans are in exile? the official Boletin de Estadistica, just issued. throw some light on this question trust company and the testator's give the population of the great departments of Leon and Granada for the year 1906, as well as the births and deaths for the whole republic for 1908, and the births and deaths for each department for the latter half of 1908. Attention is at once arrested departments of Leon and Granada, which including all nationalities, amounts to 7,975 in a total population of 119,000. Excluding executor is responsible and a judicial all foreigners and taking account only of decree compelling it to make good the like Nicaraguans, it is shown that there are loss is always capable of enforcement. 8,337 more remains the republic to be copclusion that in the Nicaraguan popula-tion of the whole republic the females out-His is far the happier lot. There is no sidering the fact that at least a hundred ficiaries of a testamentary trust. If tion of the whole republic the remaies outtheir trustee is an individual and he a result to be explained? Not by saying steals or squanders the trust property that more females are born or more males the beneficiaries are ruined; whereas die. The Boletin de Estadistica shows the they are exposed to no such danger if the second half of 1908 to have slightly extheir trustee is a solvent trust company. ceeded the female, and the female deaths

The only other explanation is that a last 24,312 males have emigrated to the adjacent republics. The emigration has been, that if we were able to add the emigran females to those who have remained at This element of financial security home the disparity of males would be so appeals more and more to thoughtful much greater. How many females have gone abroad there is no means of knowing Taking all things into considaccurately. companies as executors is much more eration it is thought by those able to judge that not less than 15,000 women and female children have followed their male relatives bered that a corporation always has to is arrived at that to-day there are not less every four or five of the native b These unfortunates have fled not merely legal advisers of a trust company are from a ruthless political persecution with competent men its work as executor or its incidents of flogging, imprisonment, cepo de gato or cat's stocks, sequestration and forced loans, but as well from a brigcept the wisdom of proposed investments extending to the farthest corner of the field

of industry, even to the bread of the people. To such a paradise of iniquities Zelays now invites American colonists, to take the places of those who in terror have sought refuge in exile. AMERICAN RESIDENT. NEW YORK, September 15.

Oregon Logs for Chinese Temple. From the Oregon Journal.

When she leaves Linnton for China the steamer M. S. Dollar will have on board one of the most singular cargoes of lumber that have ever left the port. Her deck load is composed of huge un There are about twenty-five of these logs and

they range in length from 105 of 106 feet. They average about forty three inches to the butt and

THE FARMER'S SIDE OF IT.

ne Practical Experience na Cost of Foodstuffs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is will deal with your editorial articles of August 23, "The eptember 6, "Farming as a Business." In he meantime wish flatly to dispute the contention that the farmer through inefficient methods of production is responsible for the high cost of foodstuffs, and to suggest that the writer of them devote a little less time to the perusal of statistics and a little more to the acquirement of some actual information. Perhaps he would then discover what becomes of the five or six cents on a quart of milk, \$5 to \$10 on a ton of hay, \$1 or more on a bushel of potatoes, and a like margin on most other farm products, now ost in the shuffle between the farmer and he could figure enormous saving to the consumer if the farmer could produce milk for a fraction of the 3 cents a quart or less that he now mostly receives. Perhaps he could show the consumer who pays \$2 a bushel for po-tatoes if the farmer could produce them for, say, half of the 50 or 60 cents that he now

Doubtless the housekeepers who 18 to 25 cents a pound for meat would rise and bless anybody that can show the farmers he "excessive cost of production." Please outline the "business methods" by which he farmer could eliminate or materially reduce the cost of tools, implements, ferilizer, labor and other actual necessary and unavoidable expense to which subject. Please point out the precise brand of personal equation that will enable the farmer to control climatic conditions, produce abnormal crops every year, an nduce the middlemen to adopt the golden rule as their business motto.

THE SUN says that other lines of business are subject to misfortune as well as the That is quite true, but when a business plant ceases to operate the operating When the Almighty ffliets the farmer with flood, drought o liquidate the fertilizer bill or the hired man's wages, and the farmer's yearly expenses are not only undiminished but may actu ally be increased

Last year the writer raised thirty-five bushels of wheat an acre. This year, with all the conditions except the climatic exactly the same, he gets less than half tha He knows farmers whose potatoes this year are yielding 300 bushels an acre, and e knows other equally good farmers using precisely the same methods whose yield little more than one-third of that. The "story of a worn out South Carolin

would be more effective if it also stated the amount of the owner's profits (? have a small bit of barren ground that hree years ago would scarcely produc potatoes to replace the seed. year it is yielding an excellent crop. The has been attained has been the application of manure, fertilizer, &c., to an amount tha exceeds the value of the crop twice over "50 per cent." To THE Sun this may look like "business," but this form of "business" will hardly appeal to the majority of farm ers, to whom the support of their familie s quite as important as the interests of the consumer

distance from post office or free delivery that the cost of their newspapers, &c., is increased many times the subscription rice, and there would be just as much reason for them to complain of the "exces sive cost of production" as there is in the contention that the farmer is responsible for the final cost of foodstuffs

Suppose every printing plant had an abso lutely unavoidable habit of breaking down occasionally and reducing the normal output by 50 per cent., not for a few days or but for the entire year; would the public be justified in accusing the Sun ople of "carelessness"? The farmer well as the consumer has troubles of his wn and the remedy therefor is not to be ound in departmental statistics. That the farmer, except in a few sections, is lacking ing properly organized for supplying the cost to the consumer by the reduction of various outrageously excessive intermediate charges, is unfortunately true, but in the art of reducing the cost of production to the minimum he has long been an adept,

Now I am not of the pessimistic variety of hayseed. I don't believe the country is going to the bowwows: I don't believe the rusts are an unmixed evil; I don't beleve that every reformer preaches the true ioctrine of economic (or political) salvaion. But I do believe in common believe that mere numerical greatness is not the chief thing to be desired in our na tional development, and I believe that for conomic reasons if for no other it is im tained at a point consistent with self-re-spect and a decent standard of living, and should not be reduced through Governmental discrimination to the level of a class whose chief concern for unnumbered generaions has been to secure a daily modicus of rye bread and cabbage soup.

The farms of this country have in the pas een productive of something besides foo stuffs, and it is quite possible that it would them at a point where they could continue CHARLES S. DATTON. EAST HAMPTON, September 17.

THE BAD ROAD TOLL. One Reason for the High Price of Farm

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ST your recent articles on the cost of producing our staple farm crops you failed to refer o what is perhaps the principal reason for the high price of farm products—the plorable condition of by far the great nileage of our country roads.

Of the entire highway system of the coun-

try more than 90 per cent. is merely poorly graded dirt road, and during the greater portion of the year these roads are mud sloughs or full of ruts and holes. In spring and fall at least a million miles of these roads are almost impassable for heavy loads, and to get the heavier farm products to market requires three or four trips, instead of the one trip that would be sufficient over improved roads. This means that so much more of the farmer's time must be spent in marketing his crops.

This is not the only economic loss due to

our bad roads. Because of their condition he farmer cannot haul loads in wet weather but must wait for fine days. This results losing valuable time that should be de

they range in length from 105 of 106 feet. They average about forty three inches to the butt and each weighs in the neighborhood of fiteen tons. They will be discharged somewhere along the river between Shanghal and Hankow, after wilch they will have to be taken a long distance late the interior of the country, where they will be used in making repairs to a Buddhist tempie which is many centuries old.

The work of transferring them from the coast to their destination will be an enormous task, as for most of the way they will have to be transported by most primitive methods, and it will be the work of months to get them to their destination.

The Scernful Inspector.

From the Boston Hercid.

A well known Bostonian who arrived from Samueh amused by the reception given to his baggage by some of Mr. Loch's customs inspectors. He handed over his keys to the "marine police," and as he had "no pfesents" awaited judgment with composure.

But he says he was startled to find the inspectors held him in contempt on that very account, and because his wardrobe had not been replensished according to lavish American ideas.

"Is that all you have?" asked the official with a sneer. Then, with a shrug and a mutter, he dropped the lid, locked the trunk and handed over the keys to their owner, whe is frequent trips abroad had never in any country encourage.

**Second of the country, where along the river of the solution will be an any country encourage.

**Second of the country, where they will be used to farm work, and therefore decreased the productivity of the farm.

The farmers wifers from bay against tempt of the marine police, and the productive capacity of our farmers while adding to the cost of their products to the cities.

The work of constructing and maintraining improved roads, it would seem that this great and wealthy country should be able to devote much larger amounts

NATURES LIGHTS.

mena of Phosphorescence, Flery Spray and Toadstool Lantern.

From Shipping Bustrated.

A few miles north of San Pedro, Cal Point Firmin jute out into the ocean and receives the full force of the sea from About two hundred yards off last of the land in that direction. It rests million individuals, and utilizing this disseas come rolling in upon it, sending the spray a hundred feet into the air and senting an extraordinary spectacle at night when the spray is blazing with phospho-rescence. It shoots up like lava from a volcano, spreads out like a flery fan, and forms one of the sights of the coast. beyond this home of big seas is a kelp bed which extends along shore for miles, ther disappears to resppear again. It rises in out upon the surface so thick as often to prove a serious inconvenience to vessels coming into port. Few people have drifted over this ocean forest at night, but some great advantage that would accrue to who have can tell a weird tale of the wonders of the sea. When a swift current is running every leaf and frond stands out in lines o fire, as though lighted by electricity. Every the scene might be described as a fores itself is not luminous, but the water is so filled with minute luminous animals which become phosphorescent and blaze with light at the slightest contact with a foreign bod that it amounts to about the same thing certain other seaweeds appear to be really which emit singular lights at various times

Sea phosphorescence is not, however; the

only curious natural light seen by the travel-ler. In some California gardens when the noon has set and the gloom is apparently unfathomable a glimpse may sometime be obtained of a phenomenon that does no fail to appeal to the most casual observer. Beneath a thick hibiscus, which thrives out of doors in a California winter, close to the ground suddenly flashes a light se that a burning match has been dropped It is about an eighth of an inch across, ar when disturbed another appears very near it, and then both lights move away, stop. and move in the opposite direction. This light giver is from a little centipede which bears a pure glow upon head and tail, one of the most brilliant of all light givers It disappears and presently, deep in the gloom, shines a pure yellow light of a qualand fading away on the edges, as though i s nearly an inch in diameter, and some others appear about it. Taking up the delicate thermometer is placed against the mercury drops several degrees, showing that the toadstool, for such the light giver is, is colder than the surrounding air. Taken up, this vegetable light giver retains its light for some time, and is now seen to be blue, a light of beautiful tint—an illustration of one of the most mysterious and little understood of all the phenomena of the garden, yet to be seen at times from Maine o California, and to the islands of the sea various species by those who have disovered that the night is not a closed season the garden. While many of the dislays made by these forms are ephemeral and elusive, only seen by constant watching, the light appearing to be fitful and dependent upon certain little understood conditions, that of others is brilliant, even sensational, making wonderful displays.

A not uncommon light giver in American gardens is the toadstool known to botanists as Tianus stypticus, which emits at times a steady yellow light of remarkable intensity. The phosphorescence is more often bserved on the young specimens. In tropical gardens these displays of luminosity are more often seen. Such a phe-nomenon was in evidence in a garden owned by an old colored man at Key a maze of tropical vegetation, where the oft clashing cocoanut leaves made the day long, and at night the odor of thousand flowers filled the air. On the leaf tem of one of the palms a light appeared one night, so brilliant that it might have been a coal upon the leaf and fanned into a peculiar brightness by the night breeze. This attractive garden was the home of countless fireflies, and it was assumed that numbers of them had gathered and that their combined light was producing the strange illumination. One of the boys finally climbed the cocoanut by means of a out it. that the light was a plant, a species of Agaricus, which dropped to the ground under his blows, and when it struck scat-tered a mass of light in every direction. of Brazil, the agaric often being seen on a dwarf palm where the leaves are decaying. When massed a brilliant greenish light is the result. These "flores de coco," as the natives call them, have been collected, and when suspended in the centre of a perfectly dark room emitted a light which made the faces of the observers faintly visible.

The phosphorescence of certain agarics of Borneo has more than once demoralized the superstitious natives and astonished whites. Some years ago a party of English engineers found it necessary to survey a impenetrable, and to blaze the trail natives were employed to work at night, others during the day. The former came into camp one night stating that they could not go through a portion of the bush or forest, strange "spirits" on the trees telling them that evil would befall them if they continued. The "spirits" proved to be a magnififrom agaries growing upon the dead limbs of the trees. These vegetable fire bodies were traced for a considerable distance, producing a most remarkable exhibition, the light in some places being so brilliant that it was difficult to believe that the forest was not afire. To test the brilliancy the men held papers near the most brilliant

Loss Through Forest Fires in British Co-

From the Teronto Globe.

With timber growing more scarce and more valuable there should be a special effort made to prevent a repetition of last year's record in forest fires. An effective policy may entail the main-tenance of a larger force by the provinces, and also by the Dominion where valuable timber is under Federal authority. According to a report by the forestry branch of the Interior Depart-ment there were 635 forest fires of serious propor-tions in the Dominion during 1906. British Columbia was the chief sufferer, the total loss through the 235 fires in that province being \$25,000,000. This was the value of the 40,000,000 feet of timber and of the mills, improvements and other property destroyed. The loss in that province was about 90 per cent. of the entire loss

in Regard to Feet. From the London Globe.
Anthropologists assert that the Frenchman's

foot is long, narrow and well proportioned. The Scotsman's foot, according to these authorities, is high and thick, strong, muscular and capable of hard work. The Russian's foot possesses one peculiarity, the toes being generally webbed to the first joint. The Tatar's foot is short and heavy, the foot of a certain type of savage, and the toes are the same length. The Spaniard's foot is generally small, but finely curved. The Englishman's foot is in most cases short and rather fleshy, and not as a rule as strong, pro-

The first leaf falls, and fades the roso.
The birds make ready to depart: Still life for me in beauty glows-Summer abides within my heart.

The last leaf falls, the chill wind blow The flakes like white bees dance and dart: The sun of joy keeps warm my heart.

I little mind me now time goes, For light with lyries is my heart. THE RULE OF "THE DEST.

ri Course in English History From

the Days of the Sezons To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The of an article entitled "Who Are the recently published in Scribner's English?" of figures the fact that the destinies the English nation are in the hants of a covery as a text proceeds to lengthy sermon on the bement by the "Select Few.

According to the writer this form of govrnment originated with the ancient and was founded on a constitutional aversion to public business on the part of the mass of the people. They were, he says, "a landbolding people of the peasant class who acknowldged neither chief nor king, with no trace of feudalism among their institutions." "They were an agricultural people with equal rights who made a pratice of delegating public business to the care of those that had leisure and inclina tion in that direction." Now by virtue of tants of the British Isles prefer a government by the Optimates, as those who for "government by the best" were called in the days of the Gracchi, and by means of this form of government the English have been enabled to become masters fifth of the earth's surface; and the author goes on to say that as the people of the United States are descended from the ancient Saxons we shall eventually follow the evample of our cousins across the sea and desert the false theories of government into which we were led in our youth by the "Fiasco of France."

All this would be unimportant if it was not for the fact that it is fairly represe tive of the mental attitude of a number of well meaning people in this country who are disposed to construe the logic of recent events as evidence of the failure of demoratic institutions and would welcome a theory thus ready made to fit conditions the causes of which it would require some effort to discern. Few people realize that no exploded notion of the past clings to us with such persistency as the idea that the uperistity of a people in any line of endeavor can be accounted for by as Take the case in point. The Saxons had few institutions that were not the common property of all the Germanic races and closely allied to the Lombards, and vet we hear nothing about a million men from he plains of Lombardy ruling the earth England's policy of imperialism is the re-sult not of her political institutions but of her geographical situation. The law which history seems to warrant our laying down n this case may be stated in these A nation inhabiting a large island situated near a continent must, other condition being equal, pursue a policy of imperialism maintain its independence Aside from the nation under consideration the fate of ancient Crete shows us the re sults of a failure to consider this law sults of a failure to consider this law.

Modern Japan is an instance of the reverse.

To return to the ancient Saxons. We find that they were not landholders with equal rights, but were divided like all archaic society into lords and men, with the king as general overlord. In the "Doome" of Alfred sppear two of the principles underlying a later feudalism. Land must be held by some one, and personal service could be demanded of the man by his lord.

We can with propriety apply the theories

his lord.
We can with propriety apply the theor
of the Greek philosopher to nations as
ay that nations "are" not, they are "
coming." Some nations have begun the of the Greek philosopher to nations and say that nations "are" not, they are "becoming." Some nations have begun their political careers as democracies and ended as tyrannies after having run the entire gamut between these extremes. Other nations have reversed this order, and from the Conquest such has been the history of England. William the Conqueror divided the land of England among the members of his family and the leaders of his army, and they in turn bestowed holdings on their followers. The Saxona that were not reduced to villeinage became mesne tenants holding of Norman lords. To suppose that these classes of seciety exerted any appreciable effect on the notice of their Norman rulers is to confess ignorance of the spirit of feudalism. The demands for aids from his barons by King John led to resistance on their part and Magna Charta, but no new principles were assested. There was no denial of the King's right to demand aids; the barons simply took advantage of the weakness of John's character to obtain temporary relief. They had been heavily taxed by his brother Richard, but they had entertained no ideas of resistance to the demands of that "son of wrath." In their resistance to John's character to obtain temporary relief. They had been heavily taxed by his brother Richard, but they had entertained no ideas of resistance to the demands of that "son of wrath." In their resistance to John's character to obtain temporary relief. They had been heavily taxed by his brother Richard, but they had entertained no ideas of resistance to aid except from the Londoners, and so little liberty of choice did the system of landholding in which the "Saxon gentry" were enmeshed allow them that thirty years after Magna charta the Earl of Leceister was forced to enroll mercenaries in the army that was fighting the battles of the commons against the

the "Saxon gentry" were enmeshed allow them that thirty years after Magna. Charta the Earl of Leceister was forced to enroit mercenaries in the army that was fighting the battles of the commons against the king.

The struggle between king and barons is the factor that shapes the course of English internal history for nearly four centuries after the conquest. The pendulum swung back and forth according as the king was strong or weak, but at last the practical extinction of the old clan arise tooracy left the king master of the situation, and with the Tudors personal government really commences. Under the Tudors we see the beginnings of that new aristocracy of wealth that was destined to make suich a figure in the world. At first it was satisfied with being the instrument of the king's tyranny, but growing stronger and more ambitions it dug a pit for his feet, and finally in its seized the Government and has kept it ever since, except for such doles of power as it has from time to time flung to the proletariat who are continually crowding on its heels.

During all this time the villein and meane tenant have not remained standing, as some would have us think. With little opportant with their six foot bows and their cloth with their six foot bows and their cloth yard arrows they are winning the battles of England on the Continent of Europe. They take sides in the Wars of the Rosses and perish with Richard on Bosworth Field. During the days of the Tudors many of the great statesmen and warriors arise from their own account, and in the next century with their six foot bows and their cloth of England on the Continent of Europe. They take sides in the Wars of the Rosses and perish with Richard on Bosworth Field. During the days of the Tudors many of the great statesmen and warriors arise from their own account, and in the next century with their sare and warriors arise from their own account and the would have been guilty), and in modern times they have as a class obtained some little share in the affairs of government

gling to obtain democratic forms, while we will be forced to struggle hard if we would retain those democratic usages that we now possess. The principles that underly our political structure were not directly the result of the writings of Roussenu or Thomas Paine, but of the social homogeneity of our people at the close of our first war with England, and it is idle to believe that those principles will continue to exist without effort on our part to perpetuate them. Does any one imagine, for instance, that if our separation from England had been post-poned until the present time, and granting the same increase in our material wealth, the Constitution we would adopt in that event would contain such democratic features as the one under which we are now living?

The nicety of balance required to cross Niagara Falls on a slack wire is as nothing to that which is required for a nation to tread successfully that narrow way between the democracy that leads to a tyrant and the republicanism that leads to a noligarchy, and in my opinion at least the balance is found not in any theory of the "survival of the fittest," but only in the fitting of all to worthity survive.

Albany, September 15.

A Municipal Drug Store.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

The high rates at which medicines and drugs are sold by the private pharmacles and drug stores of St. Petersburg have induced the muniipal authorities to start a municipal pharmacy. for which purpose \$15,450 has been recently allowed. The city pharmacy will supply medi-cines and drugs to all the disinfection and sanitary departments as well as municipal hospitals. To private persons drugs will be sold at 20 per cent. discount against the normal charges.

Missed His Only Chance.

From the Atchison Daily Chance.
From the Atchison Daily Globe.
There once lived a woman who never gave her husband a chance to say a word. The memons he opened his mouth she closed it with a torrent of words. It happened that he fell sick when his wife was out of town, and before she could get home death came and took him away.

"I would feel better about it," she is still asying between her sobs, "If I could have been with John when he died. There must have been some has words he wanted to say to me."